(b) There are on-going hostilities between the LTTE on the one hand and Sri Lankan armed forces on the other. While there are reports of casualities on both sides, the exact number is difficult to ascertain.

(c) While reaffirming commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, Government of India has emphasized the need to make all possible efforts to strengthen the ceasefire and to revive the political dialogue in order to move the peace process forward. Government of India has also conveyed to Government of Sri Lanka that any escalation of violence will not only undermine the ceasefire but also result in civilian casualties.

Racial discrimination against Indians in U.S.

2936. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in U.S. the Non-whites particularly Indians are very often stopped and searched by police on the pretext of traffic violations and whether it is more so after the recent Mumbai blast by the terrorists; and

(b) the measures taken by Government of India to arrange for mitigation of harassment and sufferings of Indian on the one side and the discrimination on the other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raising of Kashmir issue

2937. Shrimati. SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan continued to raise the Kashmir issue on all international forums;

(b) whether Pakistan and Indian officials met at SAARC Foreign Ministers meeting in Dhaka on July 31st and the issue of continuing peace talks was also discussed;

(c) if so, whether any date for continuation of foreign secretary level talks was considered;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be held;

(e) whether diplomat expulsion by Pakistan has undermined bilateral ties; and

(f) whether US has proofs of terrorist camp in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Pakistan continues to raise the Kashmir issue repeatedly at various international fora.

(b) to (d) Yes, There was a meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan on the margins of the 27th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in Dhaka on 31 July - 2 August, 2006. India has conveyed to Pakistan that the dialogue process between the two countries can be sustained and carried forward only if Pakistan takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups,on the Indian side and their handlers on the Pakistan side. The Foreign Secretary level talks will take place at an appropriate time. No dates have been fixed yet for these talks.

(e) Ministry of External Affairs has made it clear that the expulsion of an Indian Diplomat by the Government of Pakistan could not but undermine the bilateral relations between the two countries.

(f) According to the *Country Reports on Terrorism*, released by the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism of the United States of America on 28 April, 2006, Pakistan continued to pursue Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their allies aggressively with counterterrorist police measures. There were extensive U.S.-Pakistani joint counterterrorism efforts which included cooperative efforts in border security and criminal investigations and several long-term training projects. Although Pakistan had "promised to shut down known terrorist relief camps, but nonetheless several such groups were able to raise funds and reap public relations benefits" after the earthquake of October, 2005.

Applications pending in passport offices

2938. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending in passport offices;

(b) the name of the passport office which cleared the record number of applications; and